91. Cypress seed sown in the garden of the Divisional Forest Office at Násik did not germinate.

92. No new exotics were tried in the Poona Division; but of those planted or sown in the previous year, the date palm has all died; anjan (Hardwickia binata) seeds brought from Khándesh and sown in the Bhamburda closed forest geminated freely, and the plants are alive, but they grow very slowly.

93. In the Sátára Division large quantities of Grevillia robusta and Casuarina seedlings were raised in the Lingmalla Nursery for furture transplantation. The Grevillia seedlings showed a most vigorous growth, and by the end of May they stood quite 3 feet high in the boxes in which they were raised. No other experiments were made during the year.

94. No experiments of exotics have been made in the Ahmednagar and SholápurDivisions.

## (*d*).—Exploitation of Major Forest Produce.

### (*1*).—*Clear or Regeneration Fellings.*

95. In the East Khándesh Division clear fellings of bábul were made in 5 coupes of the year in the Bhusával and Edlábád ranges, and in addition to this a clearing of over 520 acres of disforested land was made in the Chopdá Range. Further in the Jámner Range, the trees standing upon several occupied and revenue waste lands were felled yielding 15,000 teak pieces.

96. In West Khándesh clear fellings were made at Ubhand in the Nizámpur Range and 200,000 cubic feet of kheir (Acacia catechu) and inferior kind of firewood were cut and sold departmentally during the year under report.

97. In the Násik Division no clear fellings properly so called were undertaken during the year. In the river side bábul reserves many trees were levelled by floods and by high winds in the Niphád Range, and the wood yielded by them was given to the Mámlatdár for the use of famine relief kitchens.

98. In the Ahmednagar Division clear fellings were confined to bábul reserves, the material being exploited under the coupe system by the contractor or purchaser. Coupes thus exploited were sown with seeds during the following rains. The following statement gives the number of cubic feet of timber thus removed and the amount realized by sale:—

| No. | Range. | Name of block. | No. of compartment. | Area. | No. of trees. | No. of cubic feet. | Amount realized in auction sale. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | A. g. | | | Rs. a. p. | |
| 1 | Nagar ... ... | Nalegaon ... ... | 6 | 3 12 | 313 | 929 | 291 0 0 | |
| 2 | Shrigonda ... | Kawthe ... ... | 6, 7 | 8 9 | 1,249 | 5,823 | 335 0 0 | |
| | | Wangdari ... ... | 6, 7 | 33 35 | 2,063 | 3,451 | 200 0 0 | |
| | | Ajnuj... ... ... | 4, 5 | 9 28 | 822 | 1,599 | 76 0 0 | |
| 3 | Sheogaon ... | Zorapur ... ... | 5 | 2 3 | 153 | 1,487 | 50 0 0 | |
| | | Ghewri ... ... | 5, 6 | 10 34 | 654 | 1,630 | 84 0 0 | |
| 4 | Ráhuri ... ... | Deolali ... ... | 6 | 8 18 | 1,442 | 2,295 | 110 0 0 | |
| | | Hanumantgaon ... | 7 | 5 16 | 710 | 450 | 31 0 0 | |
| 5 | Kopargaon ... | Sanwatsar ... ... | 6 | 6 10 | 21 | 23 | 3 8 0 | |
| | | Malegaon Thadi ... | 6 | 8 13 | 238 | 697 | 14 0 0 | |
| | | Singnapur ... ... | 6 | 6 18 | 99 | 225 | 21 0 0 | |
| | | Sangvibhusar ... | 6 | 6 35 | 15 | 12 | 1 6 0 | |
| | | Mursatpur ... ... | 6 | 3 8 | 22 | 23 | 4 0 0 | |
| | | Morwis ... ... | 6 | 3 6 | 111 | 540 | 9 0 0 | |
| | | Velapur ... ... | 6 | 5 22 | 110 | 549 | 9 4 0 | |
| | | Sanwatsar ... ... | 7 | 7 9 | 179 | 315 | 34 0 0 | |
| | | Kumbhari ... ... | 7 | 7 33 | 225 | 585 | 15 0 0 | |
| | | Kokamthan ... ... | 7 | 5 38 | 59 | 225 | 70 0 0 | |
| | | Suregaon ... ... | 7 | 2 22 | 261 | 720 | 20 4 0 | |
| | | Dharangaon ... ... | 7 | 4 22 | 206 | 900 | 27 0 0 | |
| | | Kumbhari ... ... | 7 | 4 6 | 261 | 1,935 | 71 0 0 | |
| | | Sanwatsar ... ... | 7 | 6 26 | 200 | 450 | 41 0 0 | |
| | | Kokamthan ... ... | 6 | 5 1 | 219 | 360 | 48 0 0 | |
| | | Wari ... ... ... | 7 | 6 18 | 236 | 1,485 | 136 0 0 | |
| 6 | Sangamner ... | Jorwe... ... ... | 6 | 4 12 | 368 | 3,500 | 609 0 0 | |
| | | Pimparne ... ... | 3 | 9 33 | 231 | 1,121 | 40 0 0 | |
| | | Total ... | 30 | 186 7 | 10,467 | 31,320 | 2,350 6 0 | |

99. In the Poona Division the bábul reserves were treated in the same way as in the Ahmednagar Division, and the statement given below shows a comparison between area of bábul coupes exploited in 1895-96 and 1896-97 :—

| Range. | Area clear-felled. | | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1895-96. | 1896-97. | |
| | A. g. | A. g. | |
| Bhimthadi ... ... ... | 34 17 | 64 3 | |
| Dhond ... ... ... ... | 54 13 | 194 1 | |
| Haveli ... ... ... ... | 17 31 | 12 6 | |
| Indápur ... ... ... ... | 4 4 | 72 0 | |
| Sirur ... ... ... ... | 39 21 | 63 38 | |
| Total ... | 150 6 | 406 8 | |

100. The subjoined statement gives the area of occupied lands outside forest boundaries cleared of royalty trees during the year in the Poona Division :—

| Range. | Area. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|
| | A. g. | |
| Ambegaon ... ... ... | 1,608 29½ | |
| Haveli ... ... ... | 466 11 | |
| Junnar ... ... ... | 1,447 22 | |
| Khed ... ... ... | 530 0 | |
| Purandhar ... ... ... | 1,654 16 | |
| Total ... | 5,706 38½ | |

101. Under this head the bábul forests in the Tásgaon Range of the Sátára Division were exploited under the provisions of a working plan prepared by Mr. Fagan; and in like manner in the Sholápur Division the bábul coupes only were subjected to this process of felling. During the year only 2 coupes were sold, *viz.*, the Bale Kuran of Sholápar city and Mohol. The following statement gives the result of these two sales :—

| Coupe. | Area. | Cubic contents. | Price. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Acres. | | Rs. | |
| Bale Kuran ... ... ... | 33 | 8,500 | 2,200 | |
| Mohol... ... ... ... | 12 | 1,500 | 100 | |
| Total ... | 45 | 10,000 | 2,300 | |

(*2*).—*Selection Fellings.*

102. In the Násik Division such fellings have now been abolished generally, but in order to make up the quantity of wood due to a contractor only 20 khandis of tiwas (Ougeinia dalbergioides) were felled by him, the trees having been selected and marked.

103. In the Poona Division 3,005 cubic feet of timber were given as free grants, the trees to be felled being selected and marked by the Range Forest Officer.

104. In the Sátára Division 367 poles in the Pátan and Mahábaleshvar ranges were felled by selection and, when sold, realized a sum of Rs. 196 only.

(*3*).—*Improvement Fellings and* (*4*).—*Coppice Fellings.*

105. In the East Khándesh Division one coupe in the Chálisgaon and two in the Edlabad Range were sold on foot and exploited under this system, the